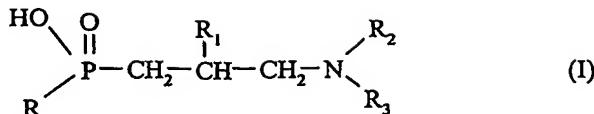


- 11 -

## CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I

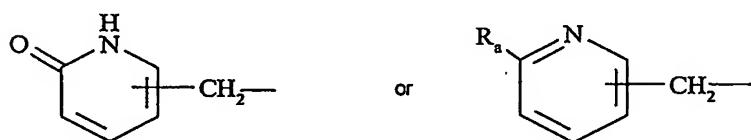


wherein

$\text{R}$  is  $(\text{C}_{3-5})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{di}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkoxymethyl}$ ,  $(\text{C}_{3-6})\text{cycloalkyl}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$  or  $\text{benzyl}$  optionally substituted in the aromatic ring by one to three radicals selected from  $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkoxy}$  and  $\text{halo}$ ,

$\text{R}_1$  is hydrogen or hydroxy,

$\text{R}_2$  is a group of formula



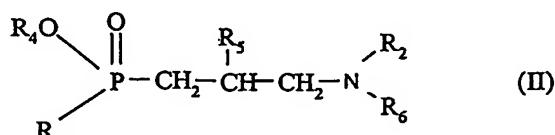
wherein  $\text{R}_a$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkoxy}$ , and

$\text{R}_3$  is hydrogen or  $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,

or a salt thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 which is  $\{2-(\text{S})\text{-hydroxy-3-[(6-oxo-1,6-dihydro-pyridin-3-ylmethyl)-amino]-propyl}\}-(\text{cyclohexylmethyl})\text{-phosphinic acid}$ , in free base or salt form.

3. A process for the production of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, in free base or salt form, which comprises, in a compound of formula II



wherein R and R<sub>2</sub> are as defined in claim 1, R<sub>4</sub> is a hydroxy-protecting group, R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen or protected hydroxy and R<sub>6</sub> is R<sub>3</sub> as defined in claim 1 or an amino-protecting group, or in a salt thereof freeing the hydroxy group by replacing the hydroxy-protecting group R<sub>4</sub> by hydrogen and, where appropriate, freeing the hydroxy group R<sub>1</sub> from the protected hydroxy group R<sub>5</sub>, removing the amino-protecting group R<sub>6</sub> and, if desired, converting a resulting compound into a different compound of formula I, separating a mixture of isomers into its components and/or converting a salt into the corresponding free compound or vice-versa.

4. A compound of claim 1 or 2, in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, for use as pharmaceutical.
5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 or 2, in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, in association with a pharmaceutical carrier or diluent.
6. The use of a compound of claim 1 or 2, in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of epilepsy, cerebral insufficiency, cognition deficits, depression, schizophrenia, or anxiety.
7. A method for the treatment of epilepsy of the “petit mal” type, cerebral insufficiency, depression and anxiety, in a subject in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to such subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or 2, in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.